GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4532
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
OPPOSITION TO FAST BREEDER REACTOR
GUNIPATI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether villages at Kalpakkam on East Coast in Chengalpathu district of Tamil Nadu are opposing the up-coming indigenously designed 500 MW fast breeder reactor;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

a), b) & (c)There are no direct instances of opposition to the proposed construction of 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)at Kalpakkam from the nearby villagers. During the public hearing held at Kancheepuram on 27.7.2001, District Panchayat Member [representing 13 Panchayats, Kancheepuram district (earlier known as Chengalpetu district)] have expressed support for the PFBR. However, representatives of the local villages and some Non-Government Organisations` (NGOs) did raise issues pertaining to lack of job opportunities in the Kalpakkam DAE Units, the fear of radiation affecting the health of the people, depletion of water resources and the possibility of reduction in the fish catch. During the public hearing in July, 2001 a very detailed exposition was given by the concerned experts on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) project indicating all the safety measures taken and the fact that there would be no adverse effects due to radiation on the health of the public, or on the fish catch. That the project will not cause any extra burden on the water resources was also explained.